



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Emergency Management*

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**Tropical Storm Bonnie & Hurricane Charley**  
**SITUATION REPORT #6**  
**1600, 15 August 2004**

**SITUATION:**

- Tropical Storm Charley moved through Central and Eastern Virginia during the evening of Saturday, August 14. The area experienced heavy rain, moderate winds, and elevated tides for several hours. There have been no reports of injuries or property damage received from local governments. Reports of a tornado in Chesapeake and a waterspout at the Eastern Shore are unconfirmed.
- On August 12, a storm that preceded the arrival of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley spawned an F-1 tornado with winds estimated at 100 mph in the city of Danville. Current report from city officials:
  - Impact on people: 15 people with minor injuries; city shelter now closed.
  - Electric power: 200 customers remain without power; 15 line crews and 9 tree crews on duty.
  - Phone service: sporadic due to line repairs
  - Damage: 29 homes and 3 businesses with major damage, 2 businesses destroyed, 3 schools damaged (1 major). Schools will open on schedule although classes in damaged vocational wing of the high school will be relocated.
  - Traffic is restricted on many streets due to debris and utilities restoration activities
  - Public works debris clean-up teams continuing.

**WEATHER:**

- No severe weather is forecast for the state today.
- Minor flooding is forecast for the Meherrin River at Lawrenceville (with a crest of 17.5 feet around 0200, August 16, which is 2.5 feet above flood stage). The river level will fall below flood stage around 1900, August 16.
- Minor flooding is forecast for the Nottoway River near Stony Creek (with a crest of 15 feet--which is flood stage--around 2000, August 15). The river level will fall below flood stage around 0400, August 17.

**EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS:**

- Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency at 1015, August 14, 2004
- Localities that declared a Local Emergency include the Cities of Chesapeake, Danville, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach and the Counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, and York.
- Localities that opened EOCs yesterday but have closed them include those listed above and the following: the cities of Colonial Heights and Franklin and the counties of Chesterfield, James City, Lancaster, Southampton, and Henrico.

**IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS**

- Minimal impact
- Six localities opened shelters: Suffolk, Portsmouth, York, Gloucester, Isle of Wight and Southampton. Several other localities that declared emergencies had shelters on standby. Southampton sheltered 45 people briefly.
- Newport News evacuated five people from flood-threatened City Line apartments. Red Cross housed evacuees in a hotel.
- No injuries or other health impacts have been reported.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

**IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Minimal impact
- High water on roads in several localities caused temporary road closures. Washouts were reported in Portsmouth and Chesterfield.
- Virginia Power reported that less than 100 customers remain without power in southeastern Virginia –the storm caused about 2,717 customers to lose power temporarily.
- Amtrak announced modifications to passenger train service between New York and Florida affecting service to Virginia. Two trains were cancelled; other schedules have been modified. The auto-train between Lorton, VA and Sanford, FL is not cancelled. Yesterday Amtrak cancelled Miami-New York trains and the auto-train.

**STATE ACTIONS:**

- Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VOEC) has returned to Normal Operations.
- VEOC conducted scheduled conference calls with state agencies at 11:30 a.m. and with coastal localities at 2 p.m.
- Virginia National Guard has released 100 personnel who were on standby for mission assignments.
- State agencies have released personnel on standby.
- VDOT closed the Midtown Tunnel between Portsmouth and Norfolk for about two hours Saturday evening as a precaution against flooding.
- Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) closed at 10 a.m. today. The center opened Saturday to provide preparedness information to the public. Call volume was low due to minimal affects of the storm.

**STATE PRIORITIES:**

- Citizen safety and welfare
- Emergency Public Information
- Aggressive pursuit of providing resources to local governments
- Maintain continuous communications with local governments
- Collection and evaluations of Initial Damage Assessments and Situation Reports
- Return to normal activities and incorporate lessons learned into procedures for future events.

AUTHORITY VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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